



RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT



# Annual Report

*of the*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

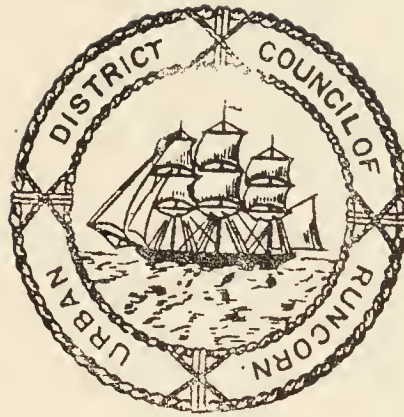
*for the*

Year ending 31st December, 1948



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URBAN DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

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# ANNUAL REPORT

1948

BY

*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH*

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## **Officials of the Public Health Department :**

- (1) *Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.*
- (2) *Medical Superintendent, Dutton Isolation Hospital (up to 5th July, 1948).*
- (3) *From 1st June, 1948—Divisional Medical Officer of Health (Runcorn Division)  
Divisional School Medical Officer.*

E. N. H. GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

## **Sanitary Inspectors:**

- \*Senior:* Mr. ALLEN DALE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.
- \*Additional:* Mr. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I., Meat and Foods.
- Additional:* Mr. CLAUDE STODDARD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

*(★Also appointed Shops Inspector)*

## Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

*Chairman of the Council:*

COUNCILLOR C. EVANS, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

COUNCILLOR J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

COUNCILLOR T. ASHLEY (*Chairman of the Finance Committee*)

„ C. E. BROOKER, J.P., C.C.

„ H. GOODALL

„ J. GOULDEN

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. GITTINS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. HAMLETT

„ W. S. HUXTABLE

„ H. HUGHES (*Chairman of the Public Health Committee*)

„ A. G. JEACOCK

„ H. KEARSLEY

„ H. KERSHAW

„ T. J. LLOYD

„ G. G. MORRIS

„ C. C. POSNETT, C.C.

„ F. RATCLIFFE

„ P. SMITH, J.P.

„ W. J. THOMAS

„ G. F. THORNTON

„ A. WOOD

## Officers

*Solicitor-Clerk of the Council:* Mr. T. J. LEWIS

*Engineer and Surveyor:* Mr. A. B. CUNNINGHAM (M.I.Mun., M. & Cy.E.)

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AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE TO MAKE *FULL* USE OF THIS REPORT—DISCUSSION GROUPS, &c., IN HEALTH EDUCATION MUST BE GIVEN IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

## INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.

Gentlemen,

As in the introduction to my Annual Report for 1947, this introduction may be somewhat long, but it is deliberate so that *all* concerned may use it for Health Education, reading it in conjunction with the main part of the Report. Extra copies of this Report can be obtained from Messrs. Mackie & Co. Ltd., The Guardian Press, Sankey Street, Warrington, on payment, if they are ordered before the end of the year.

The year 1948, as for previous years, has been a difficult one for all concerned, mainly owing to the shortage of labour and material for houses.

Dirty, overcrowded, insanitary dwellings, especially in dense areas, produce disease; we can deal with the first, i.e., DIRT, by personal cleanliness (hot baths, clean clothes, etc.), and cleanliness in the house; *the latter by frequent and thorough* "SPRING CLEANINGS" which has proved to *assist* in destroying disease germs and so prevent disease.

Excellent books to read on "Hygiene" are the St. John, Red Cross, Girl Guides' and Boy Scouts' Official Courses, which are arranged by these organisations on this subject.

As regards OVERCROWDED and INSANITARY DWELLINGS, new houses are required, *which must be a priority* in matters to be dealt with. In addition to the provision of houses for large families, special consideration should be given to the smaller families, who may have to wait for years for suitable dwellings of their own.

A Housing Survey of the District is constantly in operation and many Notices have been served on the owners of properties to make the same reasonably fit for human habitation.

Speaking generally, the health of the community is satisfactory for the moment (see pages 11 and 12) but the shortage of houses for the people as stated above may prove serious as regards health if allowed to continue for too long. The latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in the essential work required in connection with Infectious Diseases, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health propaganda.

The Government have dealt by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health; these apply, for example, to

Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946 (which came into force on the 5th July, 1948), the County of Cheshire was divided into 15 Public Health Divisions, e.g., the Runcorn Division (Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts); these have certain powers delegated to them by the Cheshire County Council.

The Runcorn Division has a Divisional Health Committee with myself as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (and Divisional School Medical Officer) in addition to my duties as District Medical Officer of Health (Runcorn Urban and Rural districts); the various Sections of the Act dealt with (working as applicable in conjunction with the Clinical Assistant County Medical Officers of Health) are:—

Section 22: Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Section 23: Midwives Services.

Section 24: Health Visiting.

Section 25: Home Nursing.

Section 26: Immunisation and Vaccination.

Section 27: Ambulance and Transport Services (a free Ambulance and car Service for those certified by a doctor to be unfit to travel by public transport).

Section 28: Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. Health Education.

Section 51: Mental Health Services.

Immunisation and Vaccination, an emergency Ambulance Service, also Health Education, were previously the responsibility of the Local Authority, i.e., the District Councils; most of the duties involved in connection with the other Sections previously came under the direct control of the Cheshire County Council, but under the Act will require further development.

The Runcorn Divisional Health Office is situated in the Annexe of the Town Hall, Runcorn.

*The various excellent voluntary societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be made aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament by explaining these to all concerned and also informing citizens of the numerous voluntary societies which have available facilities suitable for all tastes.*

Insufficient attention is given to the prevention of accidents, especially in young persons, which could be avoided by common-sense methods; voluntary societies and School Authorities can



help in this important matter with suitable lectures and discussion groups at frequent intervals. The Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Chester and Warrington) can advise where Specialist Lectures can be obtained.

The year 1948 has been a strenuous year and we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties. My sincere thanks are extended to my Council, Officials, Doctors, District Nurses, Health Visitors, and all voluntary bodies for their help, *for only by teamwork and co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained.*

The Ministry of Food have directed the attention of all to making use of the most readily available and best foods; in fact, have done much to help us to keep fit. May we continue to learn from our experience, especially in the choosing of foods available and improving our cooking (*with proper flavour*), and, the inclusion in our daily diet of some uncooked fresh green vegetables, or, if these are cooked, we must see that this is carried out properly, otherwise valuable vitamins will be lost. Good cooking and a *varied* diet is essential to good health.

A stockpot for soups should be used more extensively. Fish, for example, herrings, are a valuable food. Fruit juices as an extra should also be used daily, otherwise a condition of scurvy may occur due to Vitamin C deficiency, e.g., orange juice, tomato, rose hips, and blackcurrant juice have much Vitamin C in them. In some cases, under medical direction, vitamin tablets are necessary, where there is a serious deficiency of vitamins.

Young children must have their daily (pasteurised) milk (liquid or dried), animal fats, e.g., cod liver oil, etc., and fruit juices, school children their schools meals and extra milk (pasteurised) so as to prevent disease and lay a good foundation for health in the body.

Expectant mothers and certain special sick should have their extra milk (pasteurised), etc. *If milk is not pasteurised, it should be suitably heat-treated in the home.*

The following foods, some mentioned above, i.e., milk, cheese, eggs (fresh or dried), fish (especially herrings), fresh vegetables, and fruit, are the *preventive foods*, i.e., those which prevent disease; they *must* be included in the *daily* diet for all, but *especially* for children, adolescents and the special cases already quoted.

*Exposure of the skin to Sunlight (natural and artificial)*, under medical supervision, apart from the tonic effect creates valuable vitamins in the body which help to prevent disease.

*Diphtheria immunisation* proves again and again everywhere in the world its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease; *all children*, preferably between the sixth and ninth month, must be

properly immunised, with a further dose in just under five years' time; this can be obtained free of cost under the Council's Scheme from their own Doctors (at the Surgery or at home), failing this at the Welfare Centre, Day Nursery or School). *Prevention is better than cure.*

Owing to the danger of serious cases of Smallpox arriving in this country from abroad, all concerned are advised they should be vaccinated as required by the Act.

It is hoped that more Youth Hostels will become available generally, so allowing walkers and cyclists that necessary exercise and enjoyment in new and beautiful surroundings at very cheap rates. Youth Hostels are one of the many organisations available for all concerned (e.g., Scouts, Guides, etc.). Open-air exercise is cheap and essential to all.

**Health Education.**—Immunisation, Skin Disease, Dietetics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease, have all received attention by lectures, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of assistance in this connection. Education in health matters through voluntary societies, schools, etc., *is most important.*

A pamphlet on the "COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE" is issued as required to all concerned, via voluntary societies, Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives and Sanitary Inspectors; it has proved most useful and instructive, especially where discussion groups, lectures, etc., have been arranged on the subject. (*See also appendix A.*)

**Water Supply.**—The sufficiency and quality of the water supply to the town has been satisfactory; frequent tests are made during the year by the Deputy County Analyst, and the City Laboratory, Liverpool. The supply is constant and all dwelling houses have a main supply available to them (see page 15).

**Disposal of Sewage.**—Some years ago, a Sub-Committee was appointed to deal further with this matter, aided by the Surveyor and other experts. The Ministry of Health are aware of any action which it is proposed to take. This matter should be dealt with *as soon as possible.*

**Abattoir.**—The slaughtering of animals in a Central Abattoir having the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, will, it is hoped *soon*, be a policy decision of the Ministries concerned.

**Maternity Home.**—The Cheshire County Council had under consideration the provision of a Maternity Home to serve the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts, prior to 5th July, 1948, when the responsibility for this and other such Homes and Hospitals was transferred to the Liverpool Hospital Board.



**Dutton Isolation Hospital**, which after 5th July, 1948, was transferred to the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee under the Liverpool Hospital Board, is still being used as the combined hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts. The staff has been under establishment of nurses for some time; those available have given efficient service; these include St. John Brigade Nursing Members as part-time Nurses. More full- and part-time nurses are required.

In connection with **Child Welfare**, in addition to the official Centres, etc., available for all concerned, there are many representative Voluntary Organisations concerned with this very important subject, for further information on this subject enquiries should be made at the Public Health Department, or the Citizens' Advice Bureaux (Warrington or Chester).

Further **Medical and Veterinary Research** (in addition, research on the virus diseases in plants, etc.), may solve the question of the cause and spread of the diseases caused by virus; especially the serious disease Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

The excellent insecticides, e.g., D.D.T. and "666" will help to wipe out insects, especially those which carry disease, e.g., flies, have been found to carry various serious diseases; every means should be taken to destroy these, e.g., *proper disposal of refuse*, cool fly-proof larders, fly papers, D.D.T. sprays, etc. Experiments are still being made by the Ministry of Health to produce efficient protective serum against the sometimes serious diseases in children—measles and whooping cough. Eventually these diseases should not occur.

Intensive research is being carried out by the Ministry of Health to ascertain whether German Measles (Rubella) occurring in pregnant women may cause certain malformations, etc., in the new-born; in addition the danger of acute haemolytic disease in the new-born. (It is interesting to note that most tropical diseases have a cure, due mostly to intensive research work finding the cause.)

The co-operation and help of all concerned in the Public Health Department has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. H. GRAY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	2,904
(b)	Estimated Population (Mid, 1948)	....	....	....	....	23,800
(c)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1948) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	6,580
(d)	Rateable value of the District (31st December, 1948)	....	....	....	....	£121,835
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.) (31st December, 1948)	....	....	....	....	£480
(f)	Density of Population. Number of Persons per acre (estimated population June, 1948)	....	....	....	....	8.1
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population June, 1948)	....	....	....	....	3.6

### Social Conditions

Runcorn is distinctly urban in character, situated on the south bank of the estuary of the River Mersey. The ground rises from the river, the highest point being at Runcorn Hill, 256 feet above sea-level.

The town is built on red sandstone with pockets of boulder clay.

Chemical industries and tanneries absorb the bulk of the working population of the town. Many young people are engaged in cable works and jam works situated in the Rural District, while persons of all ages are employed on the river and canals.

Vital Statistics				Total	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	....	....	....	463	223	240
Illegitimate	....	....	....	14	4	10
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 25.5.						
Live births born outside Runcorn Urban District but belonging to the Runcorn Urban District (260)—54.4 per 1,000 resident population.						

				Total	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS	....	....	....	10	3	7
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 20.53.						
DEATHS	....	....	....	232	130	102
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 9.74.						

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

				Rate per 1,000	
				Deaths	(live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	....	....	nil	nil	nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	....	....	nil	nil	nil
TOTAL				nil	nil



### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births (10 deaths)	....	....	20.96
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (463)	....		19.43
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births (1 death)	....	....	71.4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	33
Measles (all ages)	....	....	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	....		nil
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			nil

### Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment

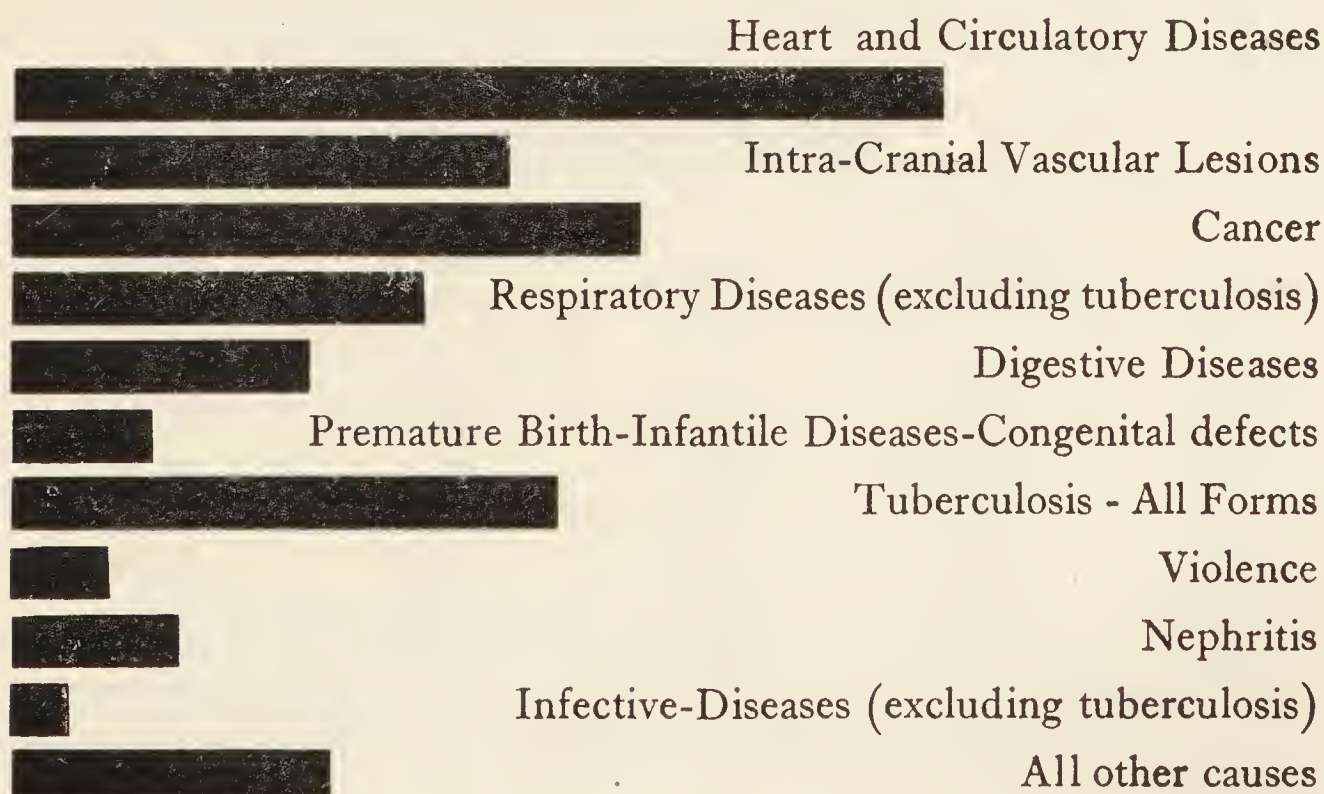
The causes of the highest mortality were :—

Heart Disease	....	65
Cancer	....	33

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of *e.g.*, rheumatism in childhood, this is about to be further investigated under instructions from the Ministry of Health.

For further remarks on Cancer see page 31 (*i.e.*, further research, early diagnosis and treatment, etc.).

### Main Causes of Death in 1948 Compared



A summary of death of infants under 1 year of age is as follows:—

Broncho-pneumonia	....	....	5 (one case in Hospital)
Acute Bronchitis	....	....	1
Congenital defect of Trachea	....	....	1 (in Hospital)
Congenital Heart Disease	....	....	1
Prematurity	....	....	2 (in Hospital)
TOTAL			10 deaths

Treatment in a general hospital or an infectious disease hospital is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in hospital or nursing homes.

There were 130 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	....	....	....	17	15	32
„ 70-79	„ „ „	....	....	....	35	27	62
„ 80-89	„ „ „	....	....	....	18	17	35
„ 90-99	„ „ „	....	....	....	1	—	1
„ 100	„ „ „	....	....	....	—	—	—

### Causes of Sickness or Invalidity

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year.

**Table of Comparative Rates**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Mid-year Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1942	22,730	17.9	22.2	56.2
1943	22,450	17.66	13.22	53.24
1944	21,840	20.6	13.2	65.7
1945	21,690	19.2	13.42	66.98
1946	22,940	20.88	13.25	41.75
1947	23,360	25.5	12.11	48.5
1948	23,800	20.53	9.74	20.96

Inquests were held regarding 17 deaths, 6 of which were inward transfers.

## SECTION B

### General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

#### 1. Public Health Officers

The names, qualifications, of these are given at the beginning of the Report.

#### 2. Facilities

##### (a) Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Anthrax, etc., in emergency.

With the facilities given by Professor D. T. Robinson, City Laboratories, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases.

It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of Infectious Disease and disease generally (*e.g.*, by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the County Public Health Laboratory for examination.

V.D. specimens are sent to the City Laboratory, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3.

As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes in Laboratory facilities are expected in 1949.

##### (b) Ambulance Facilities (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946).

There were three ambulances in the town available for the public, for which my Council paid an annual retaining fee up to the 5th July, 1948, after this date the service was extended.

##### (c) Home Nursing (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946)

Runcorn District Nursing Association—3 nurses and 1 relief nurse.

Number of midwives practising in the district—5.

##### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946).

Child Welfare, etc., are under the direct control of the County Council.



School Clinics—29, High Street, Runcorn	(Welfare Centre)
Tuesday a.m.; Monday, Thursday, Friday (p.m.)	„ „
Infant Welfare Centre—Wednesday a.m. and p.m.	„ „
Ante-natal Clinic—Thursday a.m.	„ „
Post-natal Clinic—4th Thursday each month (p.m.)	„ „
Orthopædic Clinic—Tuesday and Friday (a.m.)	„ „
Tuberculosis Dispensary Memorial Hospital, Runcorn—Fridays (a.m. and p.m.)	

(e) **Day Nursery, Okell Street, Runcorn** (see remarks in preface—National Health Service Act, 1946)

Under direct control of the County Council.

Open each day 8 a.m. (except Sundays).

(f) **Venereal Disease Clinics** (*free and confidential*) serving the district (under Liverpool Hospital Board after 5th July, 1948).

#### LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY:

Males:	Monday, Wednesday and Friday	10.0 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Monday and Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
	Tuesday	.... 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Thursday	.... 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Friday	.... 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Females:	Tuesday	.... 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	.... 12 noon to 1 p.m.
	Friday	.... 1.30 p.m.

#### WARRINGTON GENERAL HOSPITAL:

Males and Females:	Monday	.... 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Males:	Thursday	.... 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Females:	Thursday	.... 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

#### CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY:

Males:	Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
	Saturday	.... 12 noon to 2 p.m.
Females:	Monday and Thursday....	.... 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



(g) **Hospitals** (under Chester and District Management Committee of the Liverpool Hospital Board after 5th July, 1948)

(a) **THE RUNCORN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL** is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

(b) **SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.**—The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases.

(c) **PUERPERAL CASES** are provided for by the County Council at Clatterbridge General Hospital, etc.

(d) **DUTTON HOSPITAL (Dutton Institution)** has accommodation for aged people.

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## SECTION C

### Sanitary Circumstances

1. (i) **WATER.** The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn Well Water.

Frequent tests are made of the water by the Council, and during the year 8 tests of both Vyrnwy and mixed water were made, and 49 tests of Well water (which is under constant supervision).

The Report of the Analyst is : “That the water generally is free from organic pollution and is suitable for drinking purposes.”

(ii) Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 requires the following information regarding water supplies in the area.

(i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory.

(a) In quality .... Yes

(b) In quantity .... Yes

(ii) Where there is a piped supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of (i) the raw water and (ii) where treatment is installed, of water going into supply ; if so

(a) How many ? .... Yes (i) 49 ; (ii) 8

(b) The results obtained. Number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. .... 1 sample (5 organisms)

(c) The results of any chemical analysis Satisfactory

iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analyses :—  
Report of Analyst does not indicate plumbo solvent action in any of the testings made.

(iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination :—  
None.

(v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains :—

(a) Direct to the houses .... 6,573

(b) By means of stand pipes .... 7

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land. Another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

There were no extensions of sewers during the year under review. (See remarks in Introduction under "Disposal of Sewage.")

2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—With the exception of 15 pail closets situated at points not within reasonable reach of a sewer, all houses are on the water carriage system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole district on a weekly basis, and disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled"*.

The collection of salvage material has developed considerably during the year and should continue for some time as a national necessity.

### (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :—

Inspections made for all purposes .... 5,686

Nuisances dealt with .... 950

Notices served (Informal, *re* 385 houses) 306

## Summary of Visits and Inspections

<i>Description</i>					
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	45
Canal Boats	....	....	....	....	197
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	....	8
Complaints	....	....	....	....	404
Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	36
Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	....	83
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	170
Factories	....	....	....	....	30
Food Shops and General	....	....	....	....	218
Houses inspected	....	....	....	....	542
Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	61
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	208
Licensed Music Halls	....	....	....	....	14
Manure Receptacles	....	....	....	....	18
Middens and Earth Closets	....	....	....	....	10
Milk Samples	....	....	....	....	103
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	727
Nuisance Abatement	....	....	....	....	1657
Offensive Trades	....	....	....	....	16
Overcrowding	....	....	....	....	84
Owners and Agents Interviewed	....	....	....	....	187
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	10
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	40
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	30
Schools' Conveniences	....	....	....	....	20
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	507
Smoke Abatement	....	....	....	....	10
Vans, Tents, etc.	....	....	....	....	50
Water Closets and Drains	....	....	....	....	120
Water Samples (Domestic)	....	....	....	....	61
Water Samples (Baths)	....	....	....	....	20
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>5686</b>

### (iv) Shops

During the year 218 inspections of shops were made and apart from a few minor contraventions, were found to be in a satisfactory condition in relation to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation. Generally speaking the shops were found to be well kept.

The provisions of the Employment of Young Persons Act and the Shops (Closing Hours) Act, were observed fairly generally. It was not found necessary to take legal action under the Shops Acts.

### (v) Smoke Abatement

During the year observations have been made for the purpose of smoke abatement, and representations were made to certain undertakings with a view of preventing air pollution. No legal action was found necessary.



The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying only the proper means of burning good coal, etc., in the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing this nuisance.

#### (vi) Swimming Baths

The Urban District Council maintains a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly from the town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least twice a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Bath's Superintendent.

Twenty samples of Bath's water were tested, and the Analyst reported on the fluctuations of the composition of the water at various times, e.g., when the load was heavier and the temperature consequently higher. Attention was immediately given to any adverse report and the process of chlorination adjusted as required.

Certain standard improvements are required structurally when labour and material are available.

#### (vii) Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

			<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
1. (a) Number of Council houses	....	....	nil	nil
(b) Number of other houses	....	....	22	22
2. The methods employed for freeing infested houses include application of strong vermicides and fumigants of high potency :				
(1) Vermicine.				(2) Zaldecide.
(3) Slatford Insecticide made by British Fumigants, Ltd.				
(4) Gammexane.				(5) D.D.T.

#### 4.—Schools

During the year 20 inspections (as allowed by the Public Health Act) of public elementary schools have been made: the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory in general, and the water supply is good and adequate: certain maintenance repairs were asked for and carried out.



# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1938**

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

<i>Premises (1)</i>	<i>M/c line No. (2)</i>	<i>Number on Register (3)</i>	<i>Number of</i>			<i>M/c line No. (7)</i>
			<i>Inspections (4)</i>	<i>Written Notices (5)</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted (6)</i>	
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	44	49	5	nil	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ....	2	49	26	1	nil	2
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....	3	—	—	—	—	3
<b>TOTAL ....</b>		93	75	6	nil	

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars  (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	4	4	4	-	1	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ....	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ....	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(a) insufficient ....	10	3	3	-	-	-	10
(b) unsuitable or defective ....	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
(c) not separate for sexes ....	12	6	6	-	-	-	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ....	60	13	13	-	1	-	60
TOTAL ....							

Number of Outworkers Lists : 3.

## SECTION D

### Housing

Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st December, 1948	....	....	....	....	....	6,580
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	....	....				2.24
Number of houses (new) erected during 1948	....	....				55
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	50
By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	....	5
Number of houses owned by Local Authority				permanent	374	} 454
				prefab	80	

#### I—Inspection of dwelling houses during 1948:—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .... 542
- (b) Number of inspections made for all purposes 864
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts .... nil
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .... nil
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .... nil
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 385

#### II—Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	....	....	....	321
---	------	------	------	-----

III—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .... | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—      |     |
| (a) By owners ....   | nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners  | nil |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .... | 64 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—              |    |
| (a) By the owners ....  | 37 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners   | 3  |

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .... | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ....    | nil |

**4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year  | 61  |
| (2) Number of families dwelling therein ....  | 66  |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ....   | 421 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ....   | 4   |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ....   | 20  |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ....  | 114 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .... | nil |



## ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

---

There have been inspected during the year 117 Narrow Boats and 80 Barges, giving a total of 197 Canal Boats.

The number of persons occupying these boats was:—

Men	Women	Children
171	87	121

The age group of children is herewith given:—

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
7	11	10	12	12	15	12	5	10	3	15	6	3	121

Of the 197 Canal Boats inspected 8 were found to contravene the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Canal Boat Regulations, 1878. There were 16 contraventions, given below, all of which were notified to the owners and which have either been attended to or are receiving attention, namely:—

Absence of Certificate of Registration	4
Defective cabin floor ....	1
Painting of cabins overdue ....	4
Cabins leaking ....	5
Defective sheathing ....	1
Overcrowding ....	1
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>16</b>

During the year one Registration has been cancelled, the boat having been broken up.

There were two new Registrations and the number of Canal Boats now on the Register is 355.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified as occurring on a Canal Boat during the year.

The drafting of new Regulations which the Public Health Act, 1936, empowers the Minister to make does appear to be overdue: such matters as improved sanitation; greater air space in the cabins; storage for larger quantities of drinking water; bathing facilities

at recognised mooring places, and a more definite and workable system of education for children who on account of their constant moving about can only obtain a mere smattering of knowledge.

In my opinion too few opportunities are afforded dwellers in Canal Boats, and the above points should be regarded as urgent, and being in the best interests of a part of the community whose only dwelling place, in many instances, is the Canal Boat.

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## SECTION E

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### (a) (i) Milk Supply

There are eight cow-keepers on our register, three of whom produce "Accredited" milk under licence from the Cheshire County Council.

During the year 36 visits were made to cowsheds, and 83 visits to dairies.

There are 67 retailers of milk on our register; 55 for milk in bottles and 12 for loose milk.

There is one dairy in the district approved by the Ministry of Food for heat treatment of milk on the "Holder System" of Pasteurisation.

From this plant 28 samples of milk were submitted during the year for laboratory examination; each of which were found to be in all respects satisfactory.

Forty-one samples of milk delivered to schools in the area were obtained for analytical purposes; 12 of these were found to be unsatisfactory, which indicated a fault in the sterilising process of the bottles, this was remedied and all subsequent testings have been satisfactory (see page 25).

In addition to the above, 34 testings of milk were made from other sources of supply, 12 of which were not satisfactory. Inspections made at the premises where the milk was produced have resulted in improved conditions both on the premises and in the milk supply.

## (ii) Milk Testing

103 samples of milk were submitted for examination :—

	<i>Report</i>		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>
(1) Raw ordinary milk ....	19	11	8
(2) Accredited milk ....	5	1	4
(3) Pasteurised milk ....	79	67	12
			(see page 24)
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	103	79	24

### (b) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-46

Licences have been granted as follows :—

Accredited Milk	....	....	Retailers licence	....	4
Pasteurised Milk	....	....	Producers licence	....	1
do.	....	....	Retailers licence	....	2
do.	....	....	Supplementary licence		1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	....	....	Retailers licence	....	1
do.	....	....	Supplementary licence		1

## Food and Drugs Act, 1936

### Meat and Other Foods

#### (1) (a) PREPARATION OF FOOD.

During the year 140 visits were made to premises where food is prepared and the conditions found were generally satisfactory.

#### (b) ICE-CREAM.

Inspections were regularly made of premises where ice-cream was prepared, and also those from which ice-cream was sold. No serious contraventions were found.



(c) ICE-CREAM TESTING.

Twenty-seven samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Analyst and reported upon as follows:—

Grade	<i>Methylene Blue Test</i>	<i>Grade</i>
1	Satisfactory	12
2	do.	8
3	Not satisfactory.	3
4	do.	4—27

N.B.—Nine samples were manufactured locally, of these, two samples were unsatisfactory, the cause of which was found and rectified; the remaining 18 samples were of ice-cream manufactured outside the district, 5 of the latter samples were unsatisfactory, the Public Health departments concerned were notified accordingly, and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

(d) UNSOUND FOOD

Under the “Unsound Food Provisions”, the under-mentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption, and condemned :—

Beans (tinned) ....	16 tins	Meat (fresh) ....	85 lbs.
Beetroot (bottled) ....	3 jars	„ (frozen) ....	446 lbs.
Corned Beef ....	663 lbs.	Milk (tinned) ....	142 tins
Cheese ....	25 lbs.	Mincemeat ....	1 lb.
Eggs ....	No. 184	Mussels (tinned) ....	13 tins
Fish (dried) ....	325 lbs.	Peas (tinned) ....	38 tins
„ (tinned) ....	33 tins	Preserves ....	347 lbs.
„ (wet) ....	154 lbs.	Sausages (tinned) ....	5 tins
Flour ....	3 lbs.	Soup (tinned) ....	7 tins
Fruit (dried) ....	351 lbs.	Udder (boiled) ....	30 lbs.
„ (tinned) ....	52 tins	Vegetables (tinned) ....	59 tins
Juice (Grapefruit) ....	7 tins	Walnuts ....	42 lbs.
Meat (tinned) ....	23 lbs.		

(2) Abattoir

(a) The Abattoir taken over by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering and distribution centre for the Urban and Rural Districts of Runcorn, continues to serve its most useful purpose. Whilst the need for a modern building is desirable, the present building is adequate for the number of animals being slaughtered and until the future of slaughterhouses in general is indicated by the Ministry concerned.

(b) Slaughtering of Animals Act

The provisions set out in the Act were observed and there was no contravention thereof.

### (c) Meat Regulations

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are fairly well adhered to. It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in regard to any contraventions. The transport of meat has shown improvement, and in the Urban District the regulations in general were observed in a manner which indicated an attempt to comply with the same in their entirety.

### (3) Meat Inspection

The utmost attention by qualified inspectors has been given to all meat killed, and although the quantity has been less than during the previous year, the quality has demanded and received constant and diligent attention daily. The tables below indicate the number of animals killed and inspected; the amount of meat and edible offals condemned and the percentage of diseased animals.

The number of animals killed was 10,417, for which 507 visits of inspection were made.

(a) TABLE OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED

<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Under Tuberculosis Order, 1938</i>	<i>Emergency Slaughter</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bulls ....	109	—	7	116
Bullocks ....	369	—	—	369
Cows ....	1046	13	83	1142
Heifers ....	518	—	23	541
Cow-Heifers	158	—	4	162
Calves ....	1567	—	1	1568
Sheep and Lambs	6472	—	—	6472
Pigs ....	25	—	22	47
TOTAL ....	10264	13	140	10417

(b) MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was:—

For Tuberculosis	....	....	....	12 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs.
For other causes	....	....	....	16 tons 5 cwts. 1 qr.
TOTAL:				28 tons 15 cwts. 3 qrs.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<i>Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers</i>	<i>Cows and Cow Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed ....	1026	1304	1568	6472	47
Number inspected ....	1026	1304	1568	6472	47
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned ....	2	12	12	8	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	944	990	7	319	11
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ....	92.11 %	76.84 %	1.21 %	5.05 %	25.53 %
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned ....	3	26	nil	nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	92	379	1	nil	3
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	9.25 %	31.05 %	nil	nil	8.51 %

A. DALE, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

#### Adulteration, etc.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Foods and Drugs Act during the year 1948.



Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1948.

<i>Name of Sample</i>					<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>No. adulterated</i>
Beef Sausages	....	....	....	....	1	—
Blackcurrant Puree	....	....	....	....	1	—
Brisling Paste	....	....	....	....	1	—
Butter	....	....	....	....	3	—
Cheese	....	....	....	....	3	—
Cooking Fat....	....	....	....	....	3	—
Jam—Apricot	....	....	....	....	2	—
Jam—Damson	....	....	....	....	1	1
Margarine	....	....	....	....	3	—
Milk	....	....	....	....	32	2
Parrishs Chemical Food	....	....	....	....	1	—
Saccharin Tablets	....	....	....	....	1	—
Sweets	....	....	....	....	2	—
Tomato Puree	....	....	....	....	1	—
Treacle	....	....	....	....	1	—
					<hr/> 56	<hr/> 3

It should be of some satisfaction to note that the only two non-standard articles of food calling for any official action were produced outside the area of this Authority.

#### Particulars of Samples not up to Standard

<i>No.</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Milk	5% deficient in fat	No action.
2.	Milk	17.3% deficient in fat	Sample of bottled milk purchased from a retailer. As the milk was produced and bottled by supplying farmer (outside Runcorn U.D.) the farmer was cautioned.
3.	Damson Jam	Short of fruit content to extent of 15 per cent	Informal purchase of unrationed jam. Formal sample unobtainable as heavy demand caused complete sell out. Manufacturers were cautioned.

#### Shell-fish (Molluscan)

There are no shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the District. If shell-fish, mussels or shrimps are eaten locally, they must be *well* cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

### **Watercress**

Only that grown on properly controlled beds (with a pure water supply) should be supplied, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

## **SECTION F**

### **Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases**

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to measles and scarlet fever.

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, *e.g.*, measles and whooping cough, sound curative sera could be made when these diseases could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, *e.g.*, diphtheria immunisation, smallpox vaccination, inoculation against typhoid fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation**

My Council's free scheme was, up to 5th July, 1948, still available so that parents and guardians could have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria, after this the free scheme continued under control of the Divisional Health Committee of the Cheshire County Council.

All children one to fifteen years of age, *preferably* between the *sixth and ninth month*, should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the Parents' or Guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery or at home; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special clinics are organised at Schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools or to the Public Health Department.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. *Parents or Guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:—"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."*



The following figures speak for themselves :—

**RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT—**

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	157
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1948	....	2 (Not immunised)
Percentage of children immunised in 1939....	50 %	
Percentage of children immunised in 1948....	89.13 %	

**RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT—**

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	29
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1948	....	1 (Non-civilian)
Percentage of children immunised in 1939....	58 %	
Percentage of children immunised in 1948....	82.25 %	

**Immunisation**

It will be noted that through the FREE SCHEME the percentage of children immunised is now 89.13 %.

**Care of the Blind**

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

**Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children**

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to the 5th July, 1948, after this further developments are being carried out under the appropriate Acts.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Medical Officer of Health, and arrangements are made by the former for specialist and/or hospital treatment as required.

**Cancer (Cancer Act, 1939)**

Up to 5th July, 1948; after this date arrangements as under taken over by Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

An amended extract from the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, Annual Report on this matter which reads as follows:—

“On 1st August, 1946, the Council’s arrangements in accordance with their Scheme under the Cancer Act, 1939, came into force and continued until 5/7/48. These were as follows:—

(1) The Council will provide all necessary facilities so that every person in the County who is, or is suspected to be suffering from cancer may obtain advice, and that every such person who is found to be suffering may obtain adequate treatment. In particular the Council will provide the facilities set out in the following paragraphs.



(2) The Council will, by agreement with the Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation (hereinafter called the "Organisation") and with the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester (hereinafter called the "Christie Hospital") provide from the resources of the Organisation and of the Christie Hospital the appropriate treatment for all persons in the County suffering from cancer.

(3) The Council will provide facilities for consultation and treatment at the following Hospitals co-operating with the Organisation and with the Christie Hospital:—

- (a) Hospitals at which all forms of treatment will be provided:—  
Chester Royal Infirmary.  
Liverpool Radium Institute, and  
Royal Liverpool United Hospital.

(4) The Council will arrange for the attendance of consultants at any of the above places either with themselves or through the medium of the Organisation or the Christie Hospital as the case may be.

(5) The Council will arrange with the approval of the Ministry of Health for accommodation to be available for such patients as require nursing and palliative treatment in the last stages of irremediable disease.

(6) The Council will make arrangements through the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, for the transfer of such patients as require highly specialised treatment to such special centres as are or may be approved by the Minister of Health.

- (7) The Council will, by agreement with:—  
The Liverpool Cancer Control Organisation,  
The Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute,  
Manchester,

arrange for the examination of *pathological* specimens in all cases where such examination is considered necessary for purposes of diagnosis and treatment, and will collaborate with the Organisation or the Christie Hospital, as the case may be, in the maintenance of Pathological Registers including such specimens.

(8) In addition to the general arrangements set out above, the Council will provide for the diagnosis and treatment of any individual case at such Hospital or other Institution as the Minister may approve. **Early** diagnosis and treatment is **most** important in this serious disease.

#### **Prevention of Disease from Abroad.**

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country

from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject ; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948**

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1948 :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever .....	109	79	—
Whooping Cough .....	68	—	—
Diphtheria .....	12	12*	—
Erysipelas .....	5	1	—
Measles .....	274	—	1
Pneumonia .....	15	2	13
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	nil	—	—

N.B.—\* Two later diagnosed Diphtheria; 7 Tonsillitis (various—5 Acute Follicular Tonsillitis, 2 Acute Streptococcal Tonsillitis); 1 Glandular Fever, 2 Diphtheria Carriers.

\*An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age-groups are given below :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and over</i>
Scarlet Fever .....	109	—	5	4	5	65	20	1	5	2	2	—
Whooping Cough .....	68	5	22	13	12	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2
Measles .....	274	16	68	49	43	94	2	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia .....	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	8	2
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .....	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



Diphtheria Antitoxin was provided free to Medical Practitioners and could be obtained at any time from the local Laboratories of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies Ltd., or in great emergency from Dutton Isolation Hospital up to the 5th July, 1948; after this date the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee arranged that all General Practitioners were notified as follows through the Executive Councils:—

“The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee will be responsible for making supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin available for General Practitioners.

“Supplies will be kept at the following Hospitals (as it applies to the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts) and may be obtained on application as shown:—

Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital:	The Matron
Dutton Isolation Hospital:	The Matron

“Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case, or they may, in emergency, obtain it from any pharmacist holding a stock and forward the account to this Committee.”

“Stock held by Hospitals or Practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply, i.e., the Pharmacist, Chester Royal Infirmary. No charge will be made for Antitoxin supplied under these arrangements.”

*In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in Diphtheria.*

*N.B.: Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.*

All swabs up to the end of the year 31st December, 1948, were examined at Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Runcorn (this was by agreement by my Council).

Swabs examined during 1948:—

<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive (Diphtheria)</i>	<i>Negative (Diphtheria)</i>
117	2	115

After 5th July, 1949, General Practitioners were informed that they could, as required, obtain, e.g., Lymph for Vaccination against Smallpox (nearest Public Health Laboratory), and other types of vaccine and sera (Divisional Health Office, Town Hall, Runcorn) as agreed to by the Ministry of Health.



**Runcorn Urban District**  
**TOTAL DEATHS, 1948**

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
All causes ....					130	102
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	....	....	....	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	....	....	....	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	....	....	....	4	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	....	....	....	1	—
9.	Influenza	....	....	....	—	—
10.	Measles	....	....	....	1	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis	....	....	....	1	—
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	....	....	....	4	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	2	4
15.	Cancer of breast	....	....	....	—	3
16.	Cancer of all other parts	....	....	....	10	7
17.	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	3
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	....	....	....	7	17
19.	Heart disease	....	....	....	43	22
20.	Other disease of circ. system	....	....	....	6	7
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	14	6
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	6	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	3	—
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	....	....	....	—	1
25.	Diarrhœa, under 2 years	....	....	....	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	1	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	5	1
28.	Nephritis	....	....	....	4	2
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion. Sepsis	....	....	....	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	....	....	....	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	....	....	....	1	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	....	....	....	4	2
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	—	3
34.	Road traffic accidents	....	....	....	1	2
35.	Other violent causes	....	....	....	2	2
36.	All other causes	....	....	....	10	7

(Registrar General's figures)

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total	....	....	....	5	5
		Legitimate	....	....	....	4	5
		Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	-
LIVE BIRTHS	{	Total	....	....	....	227	250
		Legitimate	....	....	....	223	240
		Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	10
STILLBIRTHS	{	Total	....	....	....	3	7
		Legitimate	....	....	....	3	7
		Illegitimate	....	....	....	-	-

POPULATION (mid June, 1948) .... Estimated 23,800  
Comparability Factor (not available for 1948).

### Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

Site	Age								Total
	0-30		30-50		50-70		70 and over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Breast ....	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Colon ....	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
Larynx ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lower Lip ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Liver ....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Lung ....	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Oesophagus ....	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	5
Pancreas ....	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Prostate ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Rectum ....	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Stomach ....	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	6
Tongue ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Uterus ....	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	3
Male Deaths ....	-	-	1	-	6	-	9	-	Total 33
Female Deaths ....	-	-	-	4	-	10	-	3	

# Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns. (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	<i>Runcorn Urban District Resident Population (estimated mid-June 1948), 23,800</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Adminis- trative County</i>
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>				
<b>BIRTHS—</b>					
Live Births (477) ....	20.53	17.9 (a)	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still births (10) ....	0.42	0.42 (a)	0.52	0.43	0.39
<b>DEATHS—</b>					
All causes (232) ....	9.74	10.8 (a)	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid (0) ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ....	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis (7) ....	0.25	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza ....	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox ....	0.00	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ....	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia (13) ....	0.54	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
<b>NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)</b>					
Typhoid Fever ....	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ....	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever ....	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
*Scarlet Fever (109) ....	4.58	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough (68) ....	2.85	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria (2) ....	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas (5) ....	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox ....	0.00	—	—	—	—
Measles (274) ....	11.51	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
†Pneumonia (15) ....	0.62	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis ....	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>				
<b>DEATHS—</b>					
All causes under 1 year of age (10) ....	20.96	34 (b)	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ....	0.00	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i>				
<b>NOTIFICATION (corrected)</b> Puerperal fever and Pyrexia	0.00	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34 (c)

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61.



## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	<i>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births</i>	<i>Rates per million women aged 15-44</i>
140 Abortions with sepsis ....	0.11	9
141 Abortions without sepsis ....	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections ....	0.13	
142-146)		
148-150) Other maternal causes ....	0.73	

N.B.—Special remarks by Dr. E. N. H. Gray, Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts:—

† With the increase and early use of Penicillin and with ordinary precautions it is hoped this figure will fall in the future. All cases of Pneumonia are specially investigated and action is taken to prevent further cases whenever possible.

A Special Form has been issued by me, which contains precautions recommended in the nursing of measles, whooping cough, influenza and pneumonia at home; copies have been sent to all Doctors and District Nurses in my Districts for distribution as required.

\* The majority of these cases attended one school in the District. The necessary investigation and preventive measures were carried out when the disease was brought under control.

## DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS IN INFANTS

Compared with previous years and the figures quoted above, it is noted with satisfaction that there has been a considerable decrease in deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhœa in Infants under 2 years of age, e.g. (1947—6 deaths), (1948—Nil deaths), also a decrease in the deaths of infants under one year of age from all causes, e.g. (1947—29 deaths) (1948—10 deaths).

## TUBERCULOSIS

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted :

Proper food (see remarks in Introduction), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to Sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories. Close liaison is kept with District T.B. Officers.

*In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly “pasteurised”, failing this, heat-treated properly in the home.*

*With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people: these, with heat treatment of milk (e.g., Pasteurisation or proper heat-treatment in the home) will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat treatment of milk not only kills the Tubercle Bacillus but other germs causing disease.*

Particulars of the 19 new cases of Tuberculosis and of the 7 deaths from the disease in the area during 1948 :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 .....	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
15-24 .....	8	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25-34 .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
35-44 .....	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-54 .....	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-64 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	12	4	1	2	4	2	1	—

The 7 deaths were notified cases.

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Cheshire County Council’s Public Health Laboratory, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester (telephone number: Chester 2305).

During the year 1948 the following sputums were dealt with :—  
Total No. of Sputums ..... 101  
(Negative 91, Positive 10)

Tuberculosis Cases on Register—Comparative Rates :—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1942	22,730	49	35	41	92	176	7.7
1943	22,450	50	35	50	45	180	8.01
1944	21,840	53	35	50	49	187	8.5
1945	21,690	56	40	50	50	196	9.03
1946	22,940	58	38	41	45	182	7.9
1947	23,360	56	42	32	25	155	6.6
1948	23,800	61	42	27	26	156	6.5

The Ministry of Health have carried out intensive research in the use of Streptomycin in the treatment of Tuberculosis, especially for T.B. Meningitis and Miliary Tuberculosis—as a result satisfactory results as regards cure are being obtained at certain hospitals. Further developments are expected as soon as this drug becomes more available.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

Taking into consideration the conditions created by the shortage of housing accommodation, the general health of the community is satisfactory for the monent.

When the various matters recommended in this Report are put into effect, health (mental and physical) should greatly improve, provided all concerned co-operate. Proper housing conditions, food and further health education are urgently required.

**E. N. H. GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., I.M., D.P.H.**

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.

Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital, Dutton (up to 5th July, 1948).

Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn.

Divisional School Medical Officer, Runcorn.

P.S.—PLEASE KEEP THIS REPORT FOR EASY REFERENCE  
AND READ IT CAREFULLY.



## APPENDIX "A"

### RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,

Town Hall, Runcorn.

#### FOOD HYGIENE

The chief requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and other Acts are set out below, the substance of which has been brought to the notice of all persons registered under the Act, and periodic visits are made to ensure that the provisions are being complied with.

1. **REGISTRATION.** Premises for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice cream, or the preparation of manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food must be registered with ~~by~~ the Local Authority.
2. **EVERY FOOD ROOM** must not communicate directly with sanitary conveniences, dustbins, ashpits or sleeping rooms.—Shall be maintained in a proper state of repair, be adequately ventilated; shall be painted, cleaned as required, and no refuse or filth shall be allowed to accumulate therein.
3. **CLEANLINESS** shall be observed by persons with regard to articles, apparatus, themselves and clothing.
4. **WASHING FACILITIES** should be conveniently sited between the sanitary accommodation and shop or work room.—There shall be provided in or within reasonable distance of food premises, **WASHING BASINS, A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF SOAP, TOWELS, CLEAN WATER BOTH HOT AND COLD** (nail brushes are also advised.) Soap permits are available from the Food Office; other non-rationed liquid cleansers are also available.
5. **SANITARY ACCOMMODATION** must be provided or be readily available for persons employed in or about the premises.
6. **INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Persons suffering from Infectious Disease must not handle food. Those who have been in direct contact with such cases should discontinue handling food until advised to carry on by the Medical Officer of Health or by their own Doctor. Staff suffering from any serious illness or persistent diarrhoea should consult their own Doctor.
7. **PERSONAL HYGIENE.** It is most important that handlers of food should keep their hands *and nails* clean. Hands should be washed after each time the W.C. is used. Care should be taken that discharges from the nose, throat and sores do not contaminate food. Cuts and sores should be adequately covered. See your Doctor if necessary. (If these simple precautions were carried out most food poisoning would be prevented.)

8. **UNSOUND FOOD**, or doubtful food must not be sold. The Sanitary Inspector will examine any such food when requested and issue condemnation certificates where necessary.
9. **STORAGE OF FOODS**. As far as practicable foods should be in sealed containers, meats and fish are best kept in refrigerators, certain other food such as dried eggs and milk powders require cool, dry conditions. All foods should be protected from contamination by rats, mice, flies, insect pests, cats and dogs, which may transmit disease. (Advice on extermination of rats, mice and insects is free from this department and the destruction of rats and mice can be carried out at cost price.)
10. **REFUSE STORAGE**. Refuse should be stored in suitable sanitary ashbins with properly fitting lids. The outside area to be clean, and the refuse removed and disposed of frequently. (The Council undertake the removal of trades refuse at reasonable charges.)

All concerned were advised that this department will be glad to advise on any problems arising out of the above.

**E. N. H. GRAY**, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





